

Children and Families First Commission
of
Santa Clara County

Minutes

January 9, 2002

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Children and Families First Commission (CFFC) is called to order by Chairperson Alvarado at 10:40 a.m. in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street in San Jose, California. A quorum is present.

Members Present

Blanca Alvarado
Fred Ferrer
Sarah Akemi Flynn
Will Lightbourne
Caroline Panches
Robert Sillen
Cora Tomalinas
Cynthia Wheeler Ruby

One Vacancy

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no public comments.

3. APPROVE MINUTES - December 12, 2001

On motion of Commissioner Panches, seconded by Commissioner Ruby, it is unanimously ordered that the minutes of December 12, 2001 be approved, as submitted.

4. APPROVE 2002 MEETING SCHEDULE

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On motion of Commissioner Tomalinas, seconded by Commissioner Lightbourne, it is unanimously ordered that the 2002 Meeting Schedule be approved.

5. INTERPRETATION THAT THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST COMMISSION OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY SERVES ALL CHILDREN PRENATAL UNTIL THEIR 6TH BIRTHDAY

Susan Levenberg, Assistant County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel, references the proposed Resolution of the Children and Families First Commission of Santa Clara County Interpreting the Ages of Children Served, relating to providing affirmation that the CFFC of Santa Clara County interpretation of the Proposition 10 Act that all children prenatal until their sixth birthday, not their fifth birthday, are eligible for CFFC programs and/or services.

In response to a suggestion by Commissioner Ferrer to amend the language to include the word "families," Ms. Levenberg indicates that paragraphs one, two, and three be amended to include language relative to children and "families."

On motion of Commissioner Ferrer, seconded by Commissioner Lightbourne, it is unanimously ordered that the Resolution of the Children and Families First Commission of Santa Clara County Interpreting the Ages of Children Served be adopted, as amended.

6. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Update On The Franklin-Mckinley School Readiness Initiative Proposal Grant Application

Jolene Smith, Deputy Director of Programs, CFFC, provides opening comments and introduces Ann Nelson, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, Franklin-McKinley School District. Ms Nelson expresses appreciation to the CFFC on behalf of Larry Aceves, Superintendent, Franklin-McKinley School District, and the Franklin-McKinley School District for support and guidance to participate in the School Readiness Initiative.

Further, she provides background information relating to Franklin, Santee, and McKinley Elementary Schools as the three targeted sites that will participate in the proposed project and indicates that these schools' rankings are very low; however, the Governor has recognized the district because of the tremendous growth made over the last four years.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Sillen relating to the statistics of the participating schools, Karen Blinstrub, Executive Director, CFFC, provides clarification relative to the 535 Rank, 3 Decile of McKinley Elementary; the 425 Rank, 1 Decile of Santee Elementary; and, the 401 Rank, 1 Decile of Franklin Elementary; by stating that the Academic Performance Index (API) score (Rank) is based on the schools' results on the California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. She indicates the Decile ranking is based on the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (SAT 9) Scores and the percentage of students scoring at or above the 50th National Percentile Rank of 10 through 1, with 1 equaling the lowest rank. Further, she notes that schools with a Decile of 1 through 3 are eligible to apply for the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC) School Readiness Initiative funding.

A brief discussion ensues relative to the difference between supplanting and supplementing programs and Ms. Levenberg provides clarification by stating that programs that are revised are not considered to be new and different programs. Further, Commissioners commend CFFC staff and Franklin-McKinley School District staff for completing the grant application within a short timeline.

Ms. Smith states that Franklin-McKinley is a Phase 1 participant and their application is due to the CCFC on January 15, 2002. She provides a Power Point presentation and highlights key elements relating to the comprehensiveness of the School Readiness Initiative including descriptions of the communities to be served by the proposed program; the building and enhancing of a comprehensive system of support for children and their families in the attendance area of the three elementary schools; the required extensive outreach, focus groups, surveys, and the direct participation of approximately 300 parents; the linking of the CFFC's 5 Essential Elements of the Strategic Plan into the programs; and, the objective data and research of evaluating the proposed program plan.

In response to an inquiry by Chairperson Alvarado relating to the statistics provided in the application, Ms. Smith indicates the requirements to qualify for funding include data relating to the demographic profiles of students; the education levels of parents; and, the percentage of live births in those areas compared to the county-wide average.

Jennifer Costa, Franklin-McKinley School District School Readiness Coordinator, CFFC, continues the Power Point presentation and provides an overview of outcomes from two focus groups held on November 15 and 16, 2001. She states that the focus group participants included school administrators, community-based organizations, parents and community members, 51 percent being parents and community members. She continues by providing an overview of illustrations that were composed at the focus groups representing "The Journey" relative to the goals and objectives of the focus groups; the "Best Hopes and Dreams" Vision Chart; the Information and Research; the Franklin-McKinley

District-Wide Vision Chart; the Franklin School Vision Chart; the McKinley School Vision Chart; the Santee School Vision Chart; and, the Collaborative Partners Vision Chart.

Ms. Smith continues by providing information relating to Current and New Programs and states that local in-kind funding provided by the established partnerships include the San Jose Public Library; CORAL; Fair Exchange; Center for Learning and Achievement; Santa Clara County Health and Hospital System (SCCHHS), Department of Public Health; Raising a Reader; HeadStart; CARE Center - 21st Century; and Franklin-McKinley School District. In conclusion, she highlights an organization chart; a four year budget; in-kind contributions for the next four years, and next steps.

Larry Aceves, Superintendent, Franklin-McKinley School District, provides a brief overview of his background and experience as an educator in early childhood education and expresses appreciation to the CFFC and the proposed partners for their commitment to work together in this project for a seamless transition between pre-school and kindergarten. Further, he introduces Louise Persson, Principal, Franklin Elementary School, and Sharon Yniquez, Principal, Santee Elementary School, and acknowledges the Franklin-McKinley School District administrators for their contributions to this project and their subsequent contributions to implement the Franklin-McKinley School Readiness Initiative if approved today.

Ms. Smith acknowledges and introduces two involved parents who contributed to the process.

On motion of Commissioner Tomalinas, seconded by Commissioner Lightbourne, it is unanimously ordered that the Franklin-McKinley School Readiness Initiative Proposal Grant Application be approved and forwarded to the California Children and Families Commission.

Chairperson Alvarado congratulates Superintendent Aceves and expresses appreciation for his lifelong commitment to children.

7. COMMISSIONER REFERRALS

There are no Commissioner referrals.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Announce Steering Committee Members

Chairperson Alvarado announces that she and Commissioners Flynn and Tomalinas will serve on the steering committee to discuss the development and composition of the CFFC Advisory Committee and will report back with recommendations at the February 13, 2002 regular meeting.

Karen Blinstrub, Executive Director, CFFC, expresses appreciation to County agencies and staff for cooperation in making the Franklin-McKinley School Readiness Initiative Grant Application successful, and Chairperson Alvarado concurs.

9. ADJOURN

On Commission consensus, the meeting is adjourned in honor and memory of Robert Tomalinas, husband of Commissioner Tomalinas, and Chairperson Alvarado expresses condolences to Commissioner Tomalinas and the Tomalinas family.

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On order of the Chairperson, there being no objection, the meeting is adjourned at 11:55 a.m. to the next regular meeting of the Children and Families First Commission scheduled on February 13, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, 70 West Hedding Street in San Jose, California.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Trozzolillo
Deputy Clerk of the Board